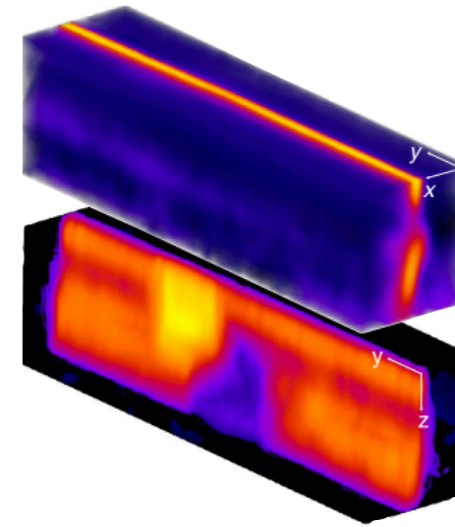


# Domain walls in ferroelectric materials: outstanding functional nano-entities with unique physical properties



DQMP Seminar - Salia Cherifi-Hertel  
*Cherifi-Hertel et al.,  
Nature Comm. 8:15768 (2017)*

## Outline:

- Basic concepts:
  - Ferroelectricity
  - Domains
  - Domain walls
- Domain wall properties
- Vortex domain walls in ferroelectrics

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Letter

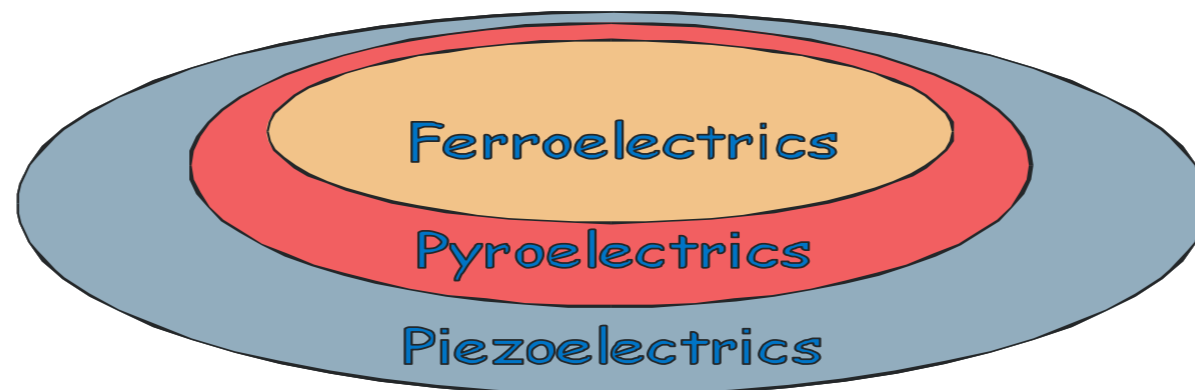
## Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

Zijian Hong,<sup>\*,†</sup> Sujit Das,<sup>†</sup> Christopher Nelson,<sup>†</sup> Ajay Yadav, Yongjun Wu,<sup>\*</sup> Javier Junquera, Long-Qing Chen, Lane W. Martin, and Ramamoorthy Ramesh<sup>\*</sup>

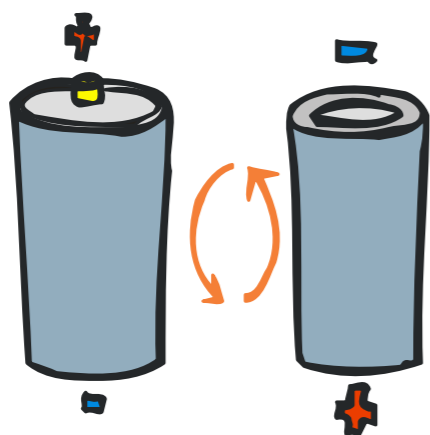
 Cite This: *Nano Lett.* 2021, 21, 3533–3539

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# Ferroelectricity

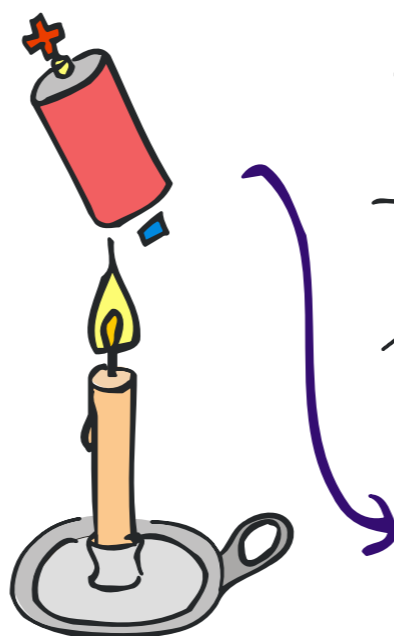


Ferroelectricity



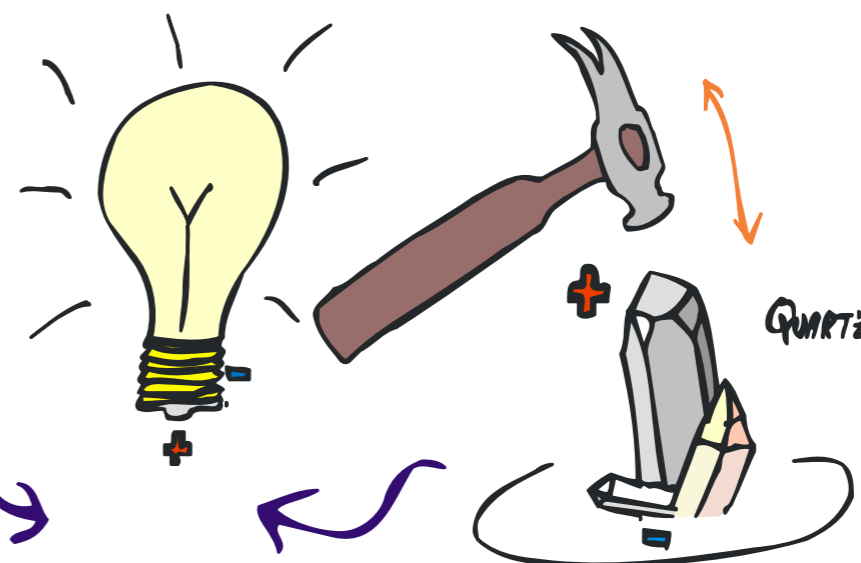
NON-VOLATILE  
& REVERSIBLE  
POLAR STATE

Pyroelectricity



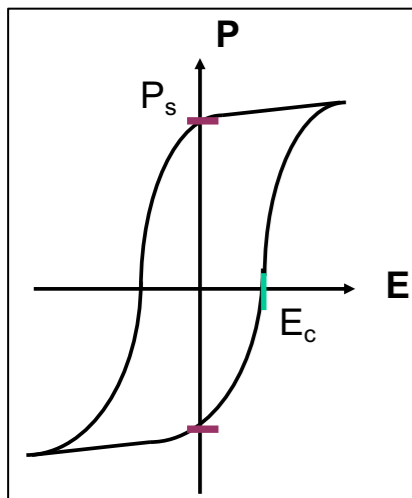
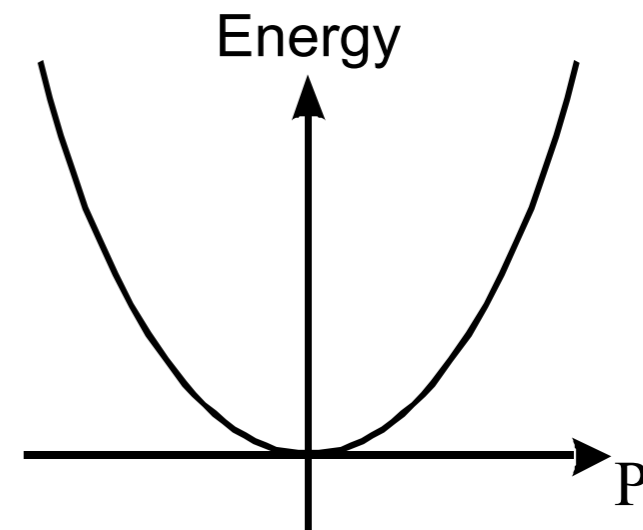
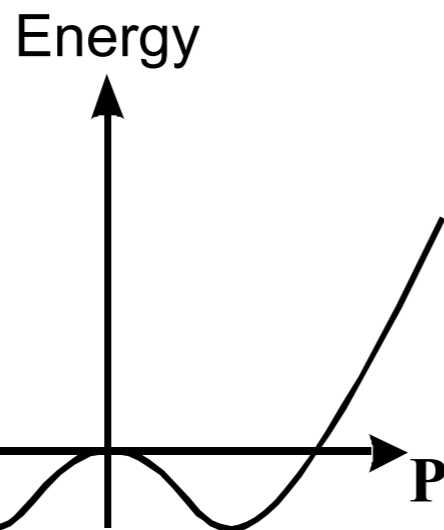
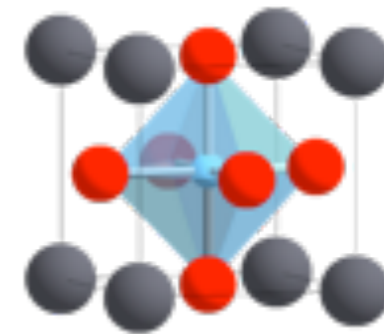
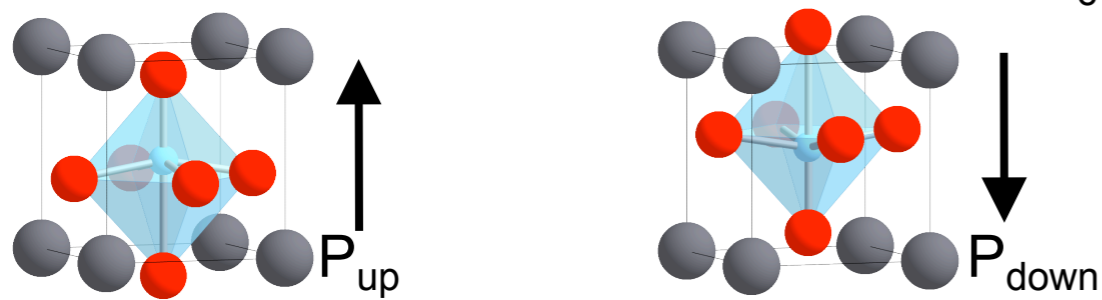
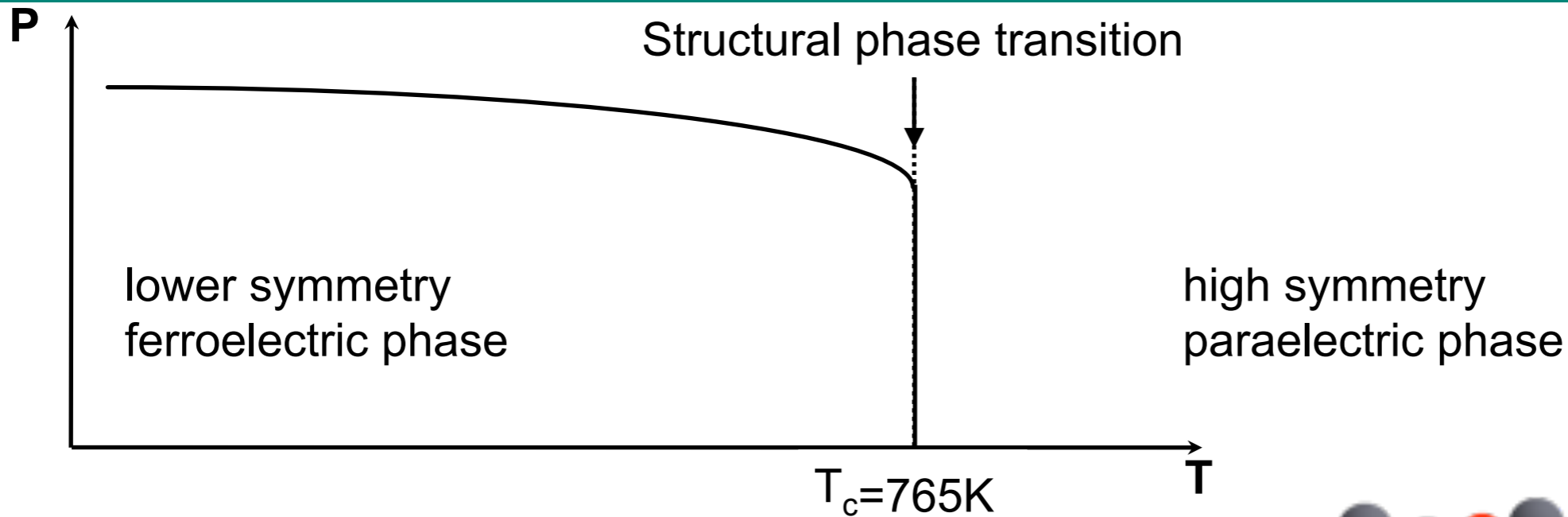
"FIRE" (-PYRO) ELECTRICITY

Piezoelectricity

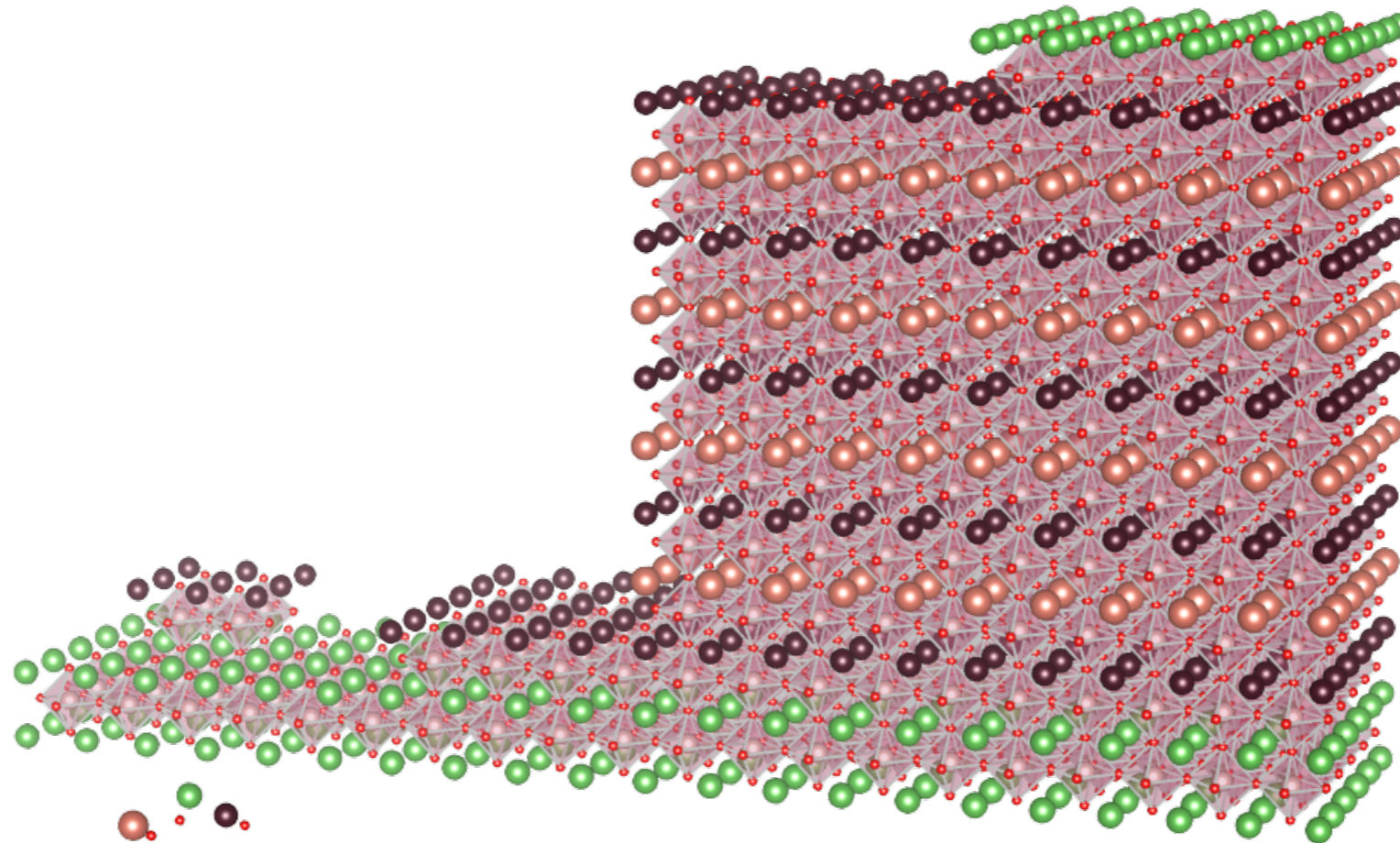


"PRESSURE" (-PIEZO) ELECTRICITY

# Bulk $\text{PbTiO}_3$



# Epitaxial thin films



# Effect of strain

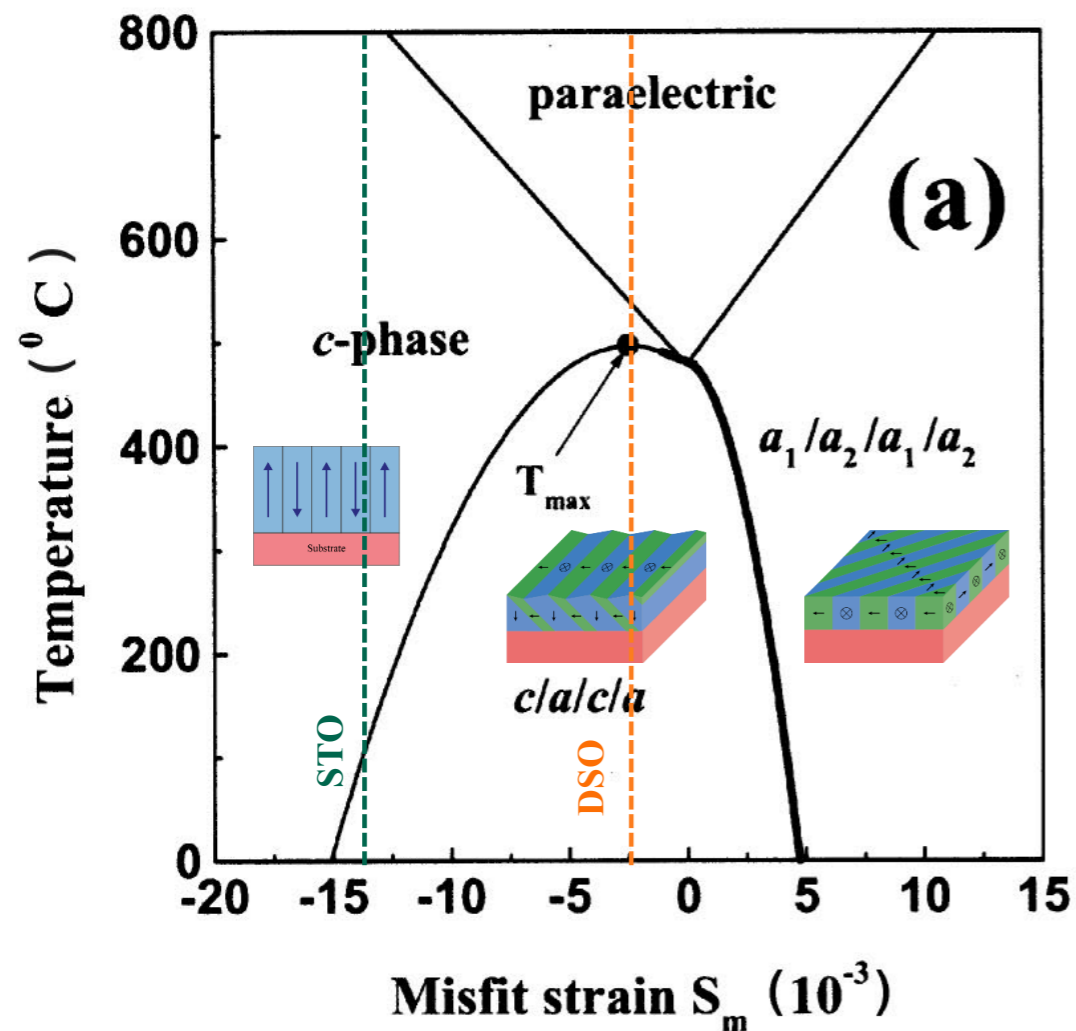
Bulk lattice parameters @RT:

**PbTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.904\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=4.158\text{\AA}$

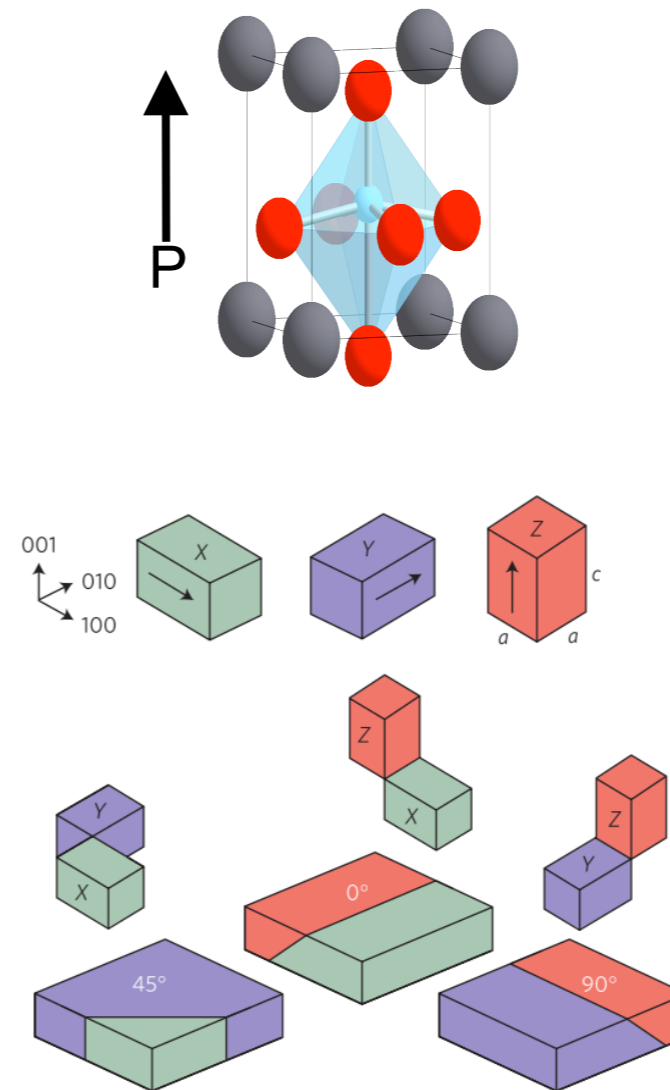
**SrTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=c=3.905\text{\AA}$

**SrRuO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.924\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=3.925\text{\AA}$

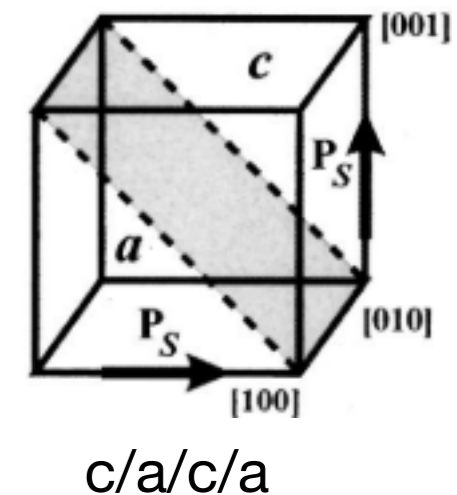
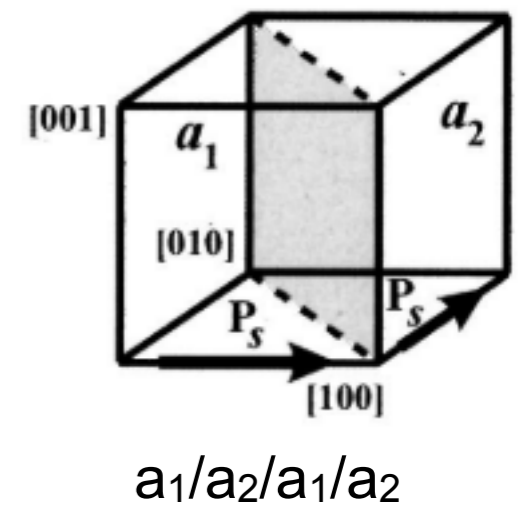
**DyScO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=c=3.946\text{\AA}$ ,  $b=3.952\text{\AA}$



Koukhar, Pertsev and Waser, *Phys. Rev. B* 64 214103 (2001)



Honig et al. *Nat. Mater.* 12, 1112 (2013)



# Effect of strain

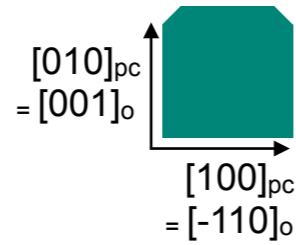
Bulk lattice parameters @RT:

**PbTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.904\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=4.158\text{\AA}$

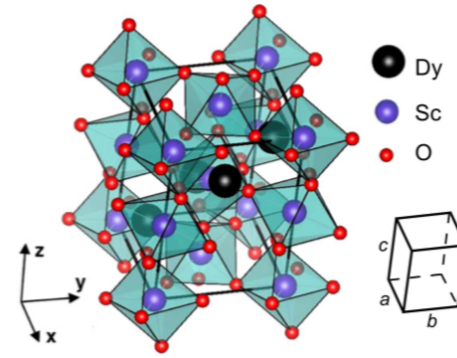
**SrTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=c=3.905\text{\AA}$

**SrRuO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.924\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=3.925\text{\AA}$

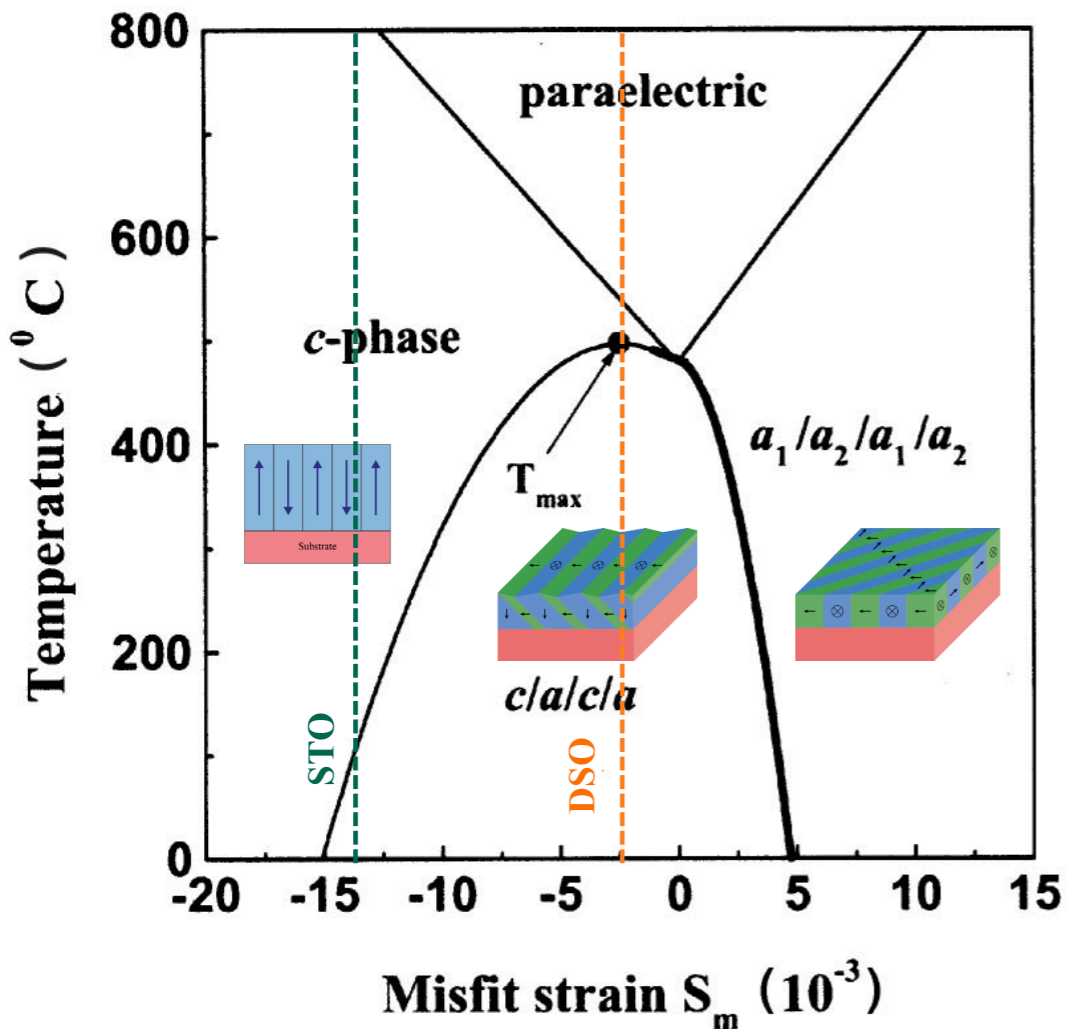
**DyScO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=c=3.946\text{\AA}$ ,  $b=3.952\text{\AA}$



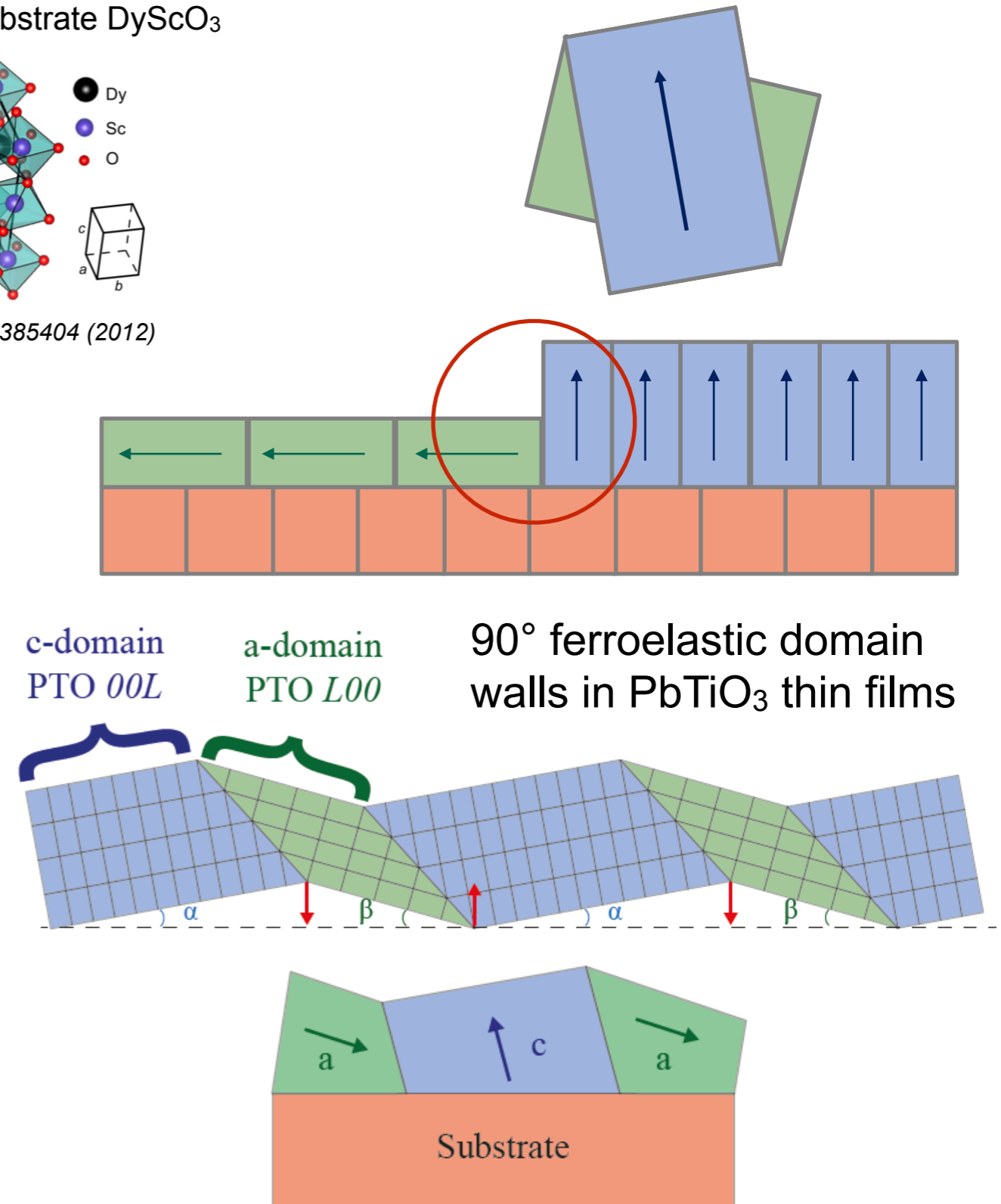
Orthorhombic substrate DyScO<sub>3</sub>



Janovská, *JPCM* 24 385404 (2012)



Koukhar, Pertsev and Waser, *Phys. Rev. B* 64 214103 (2001)



see Catalan et al, *Nat. Mater.* 10, 963 (2011)

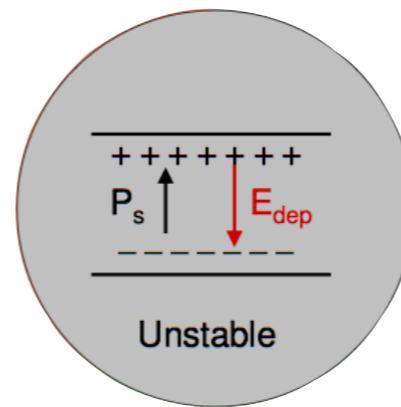
# Depolarization field

Batra and B. Silverman, *Solid State Commun.* 1972

Dawber, Jung and Scott, *APL* 2003

Dawber, Chandra, Littlewood and Scott, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* 2003

Stengel and Spaldin, *Nature* 2006



$$E_{\text{dep}} = P / \epsilon_r$$

## Ferroelectricity in ultrathin-film capacitors

Lichtensteiger, Zubko, Stengel, Aguado-Puente, Triscone, Ghosez and Junquera, chapter 12 in

*Oxide Ultrathin Films: Science and Technology*, Wiley 2012

arXiv:1208.5309v1

Typical ferroelectric:

$$P = 10 \mu\text{C}/\text{cm}^2$$

$$\epsilon_r = 100 - 1000$$

$$\rightarrow E_{\text{dep}} = 10 - 100 \text{ kV}/\text{cm}$$

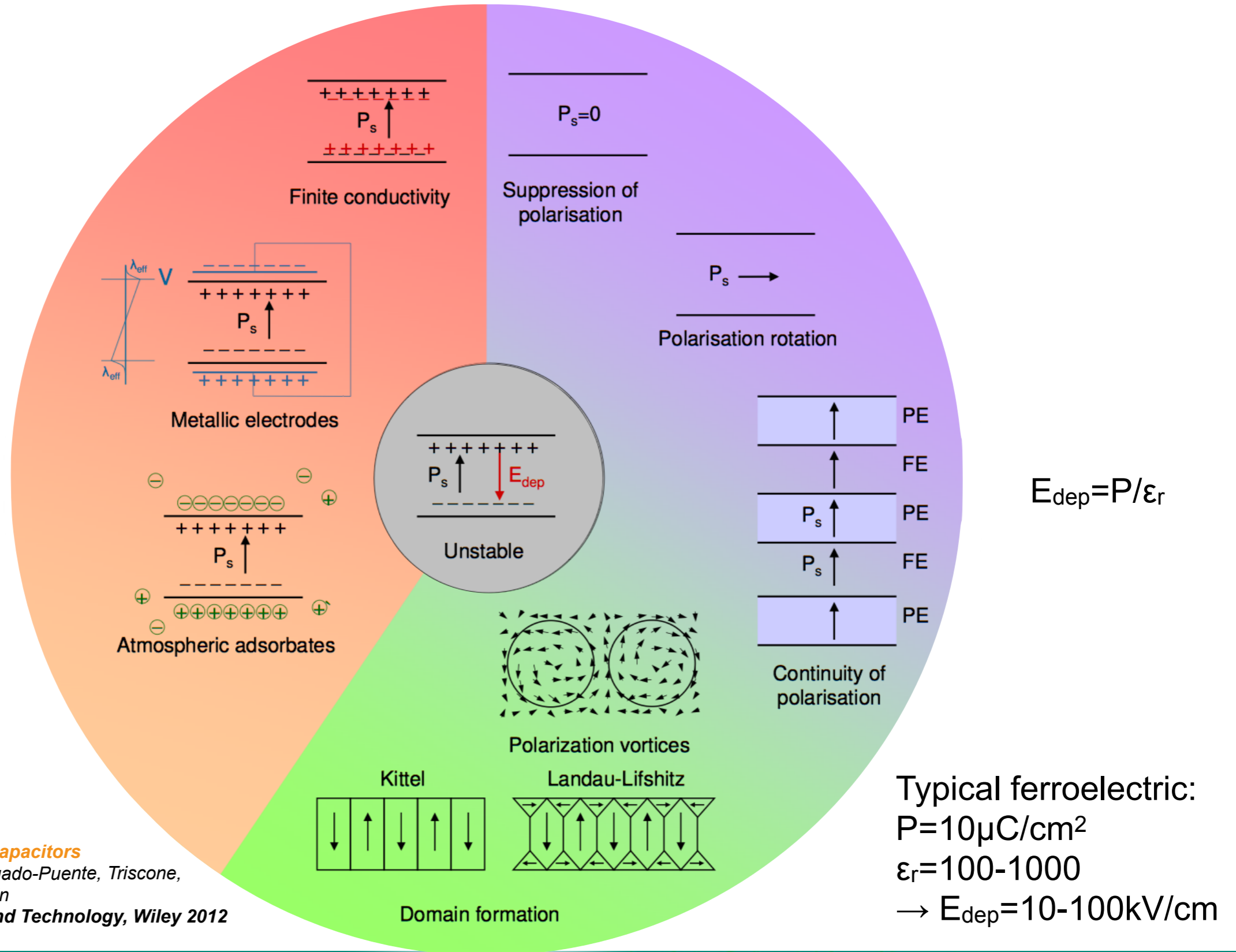
# Depolarization field

Batra and B. Silverman, *Solid State Commun.* 1972

Dawber, Jung and Scott, *APL* 2003

Dawber, Chandra, Littlewood and Scott, *J. Phys. Condens. Matter* 2003

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*Oxide Ultrathin Films: Science and Technology*, Wiley 2012

arXiv:1208.5309v1



# Landau-Lifschitz-Kittel law

L. Landau and L. Lifschitz, *Phys. Z. Sowjetunion* 1935  
 C. Kittel, *Phys. Rev.* 1946

Catalan, Seidel, Ramesh, Scott, *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 2012

Catalan, Scott, Schilling, Gregg, J. *Phys.: Condens. Matter* 2007

Scott, J. *Phys. Condens. Matter* 2006

Meyer and Vanderbilt, *PRB* 2002

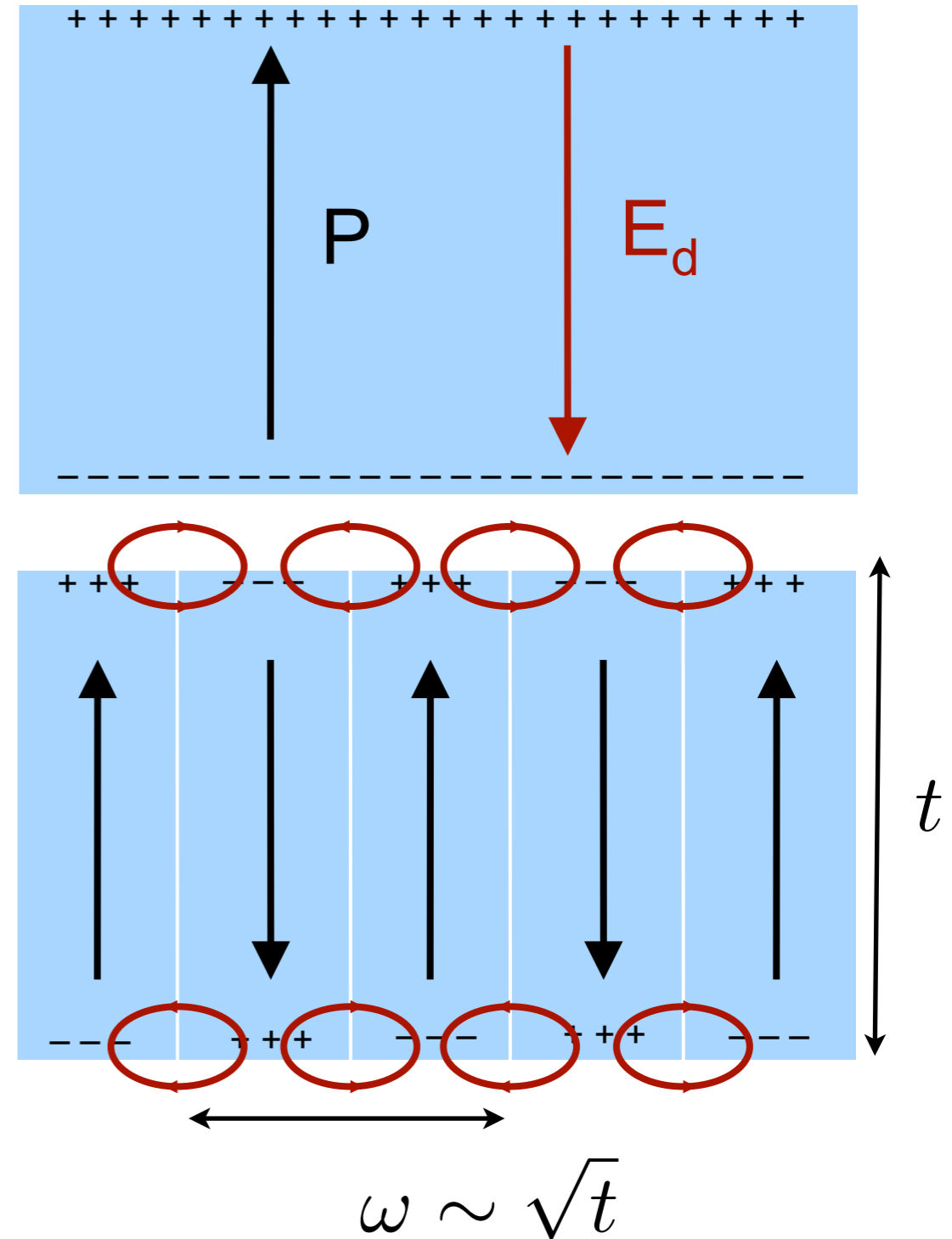
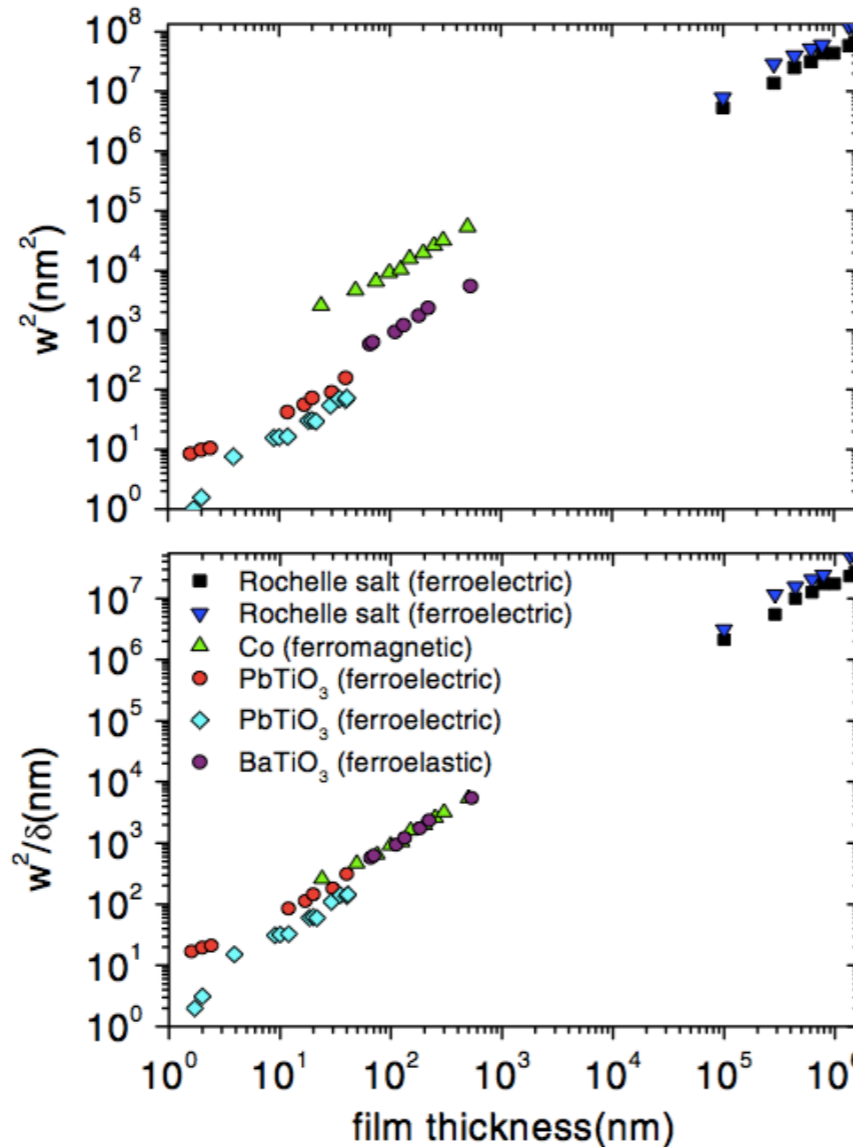
Streiffer et al. *PRL* 2002

Hubert and Schäfer, *Springer*, Berlin 1998

Hehn, Padovani, Ounadjela, Bucher, *PRB* 1996

Pertsev and Zembilgotov, *JAP* 1995

J. Mitsui and J. Furuichi, *Phys. Rev.* 1953



$$F_P \sim P_s^2 \omega$$

$$F_\omega = \sigma_\omega \frac{t}{\omega}$$

$$\omega \sim \sqrt{t}$$

# Domain walls in PbTiO<sub>3</sub> thin films

Bulk lattice parameters @RT:

**PbTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.904\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=4.158\text{\AA}$

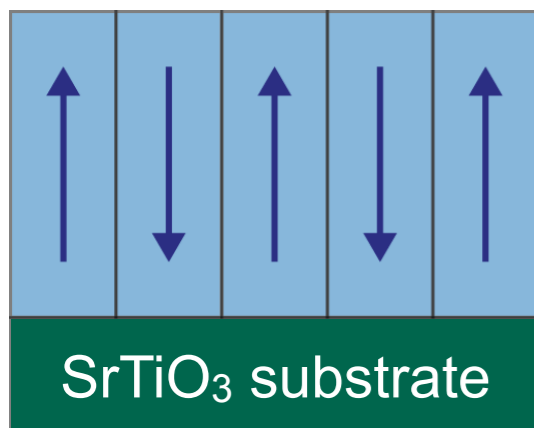
**SrTiO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=c=3.905\text{\AA}$

**SrRuO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=b=3.924\text{\AA}$ ,  $c=3.925\text{\AA}$

**DyScO<sub>3</sub>**:  $a=c=3.946\text{\AA}$ ,  $b=3.952\text{\AA}$

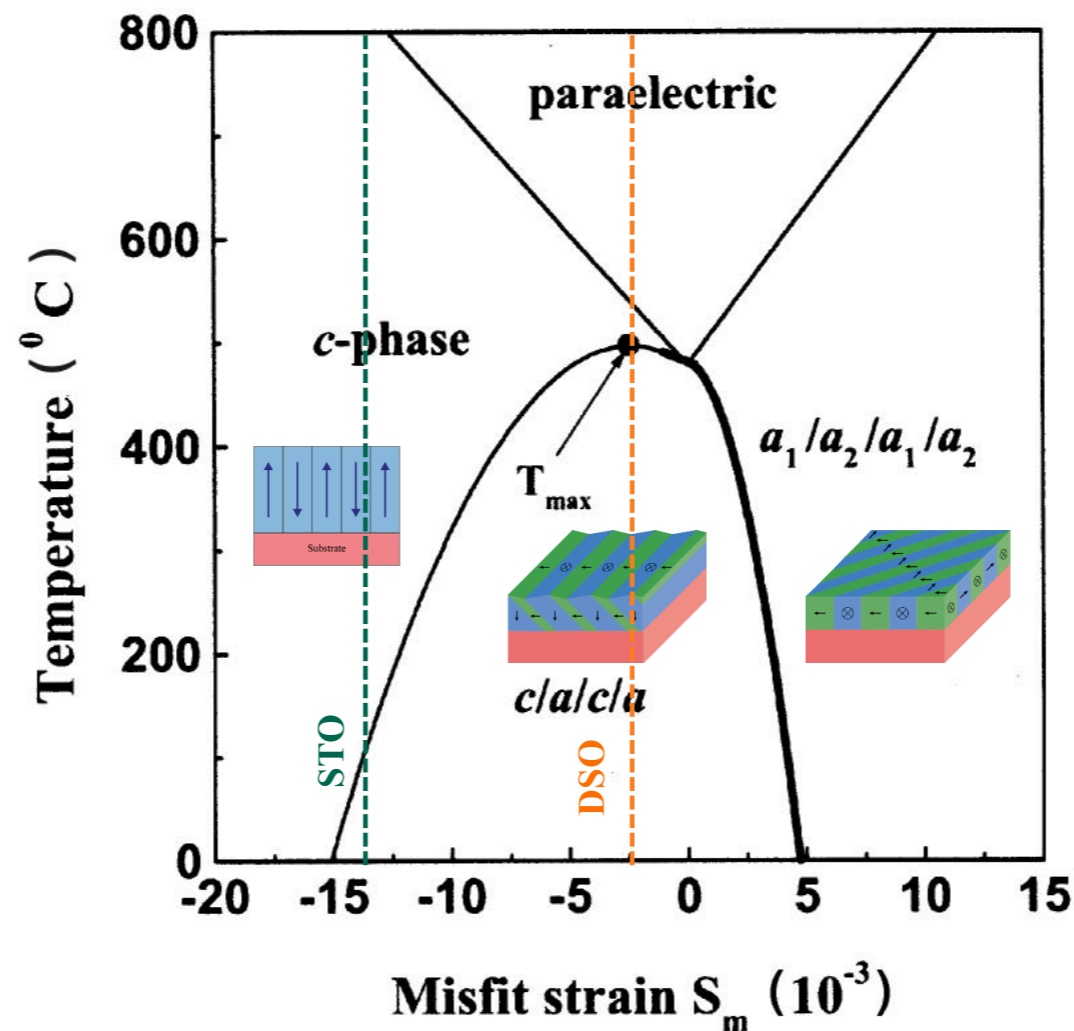
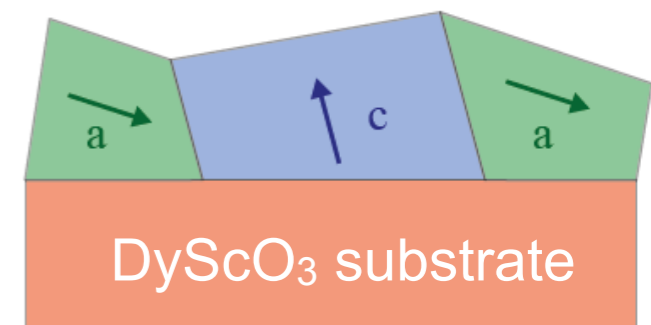
## Electrostatic boundary conditions

Ferroelectric 180° domain walls



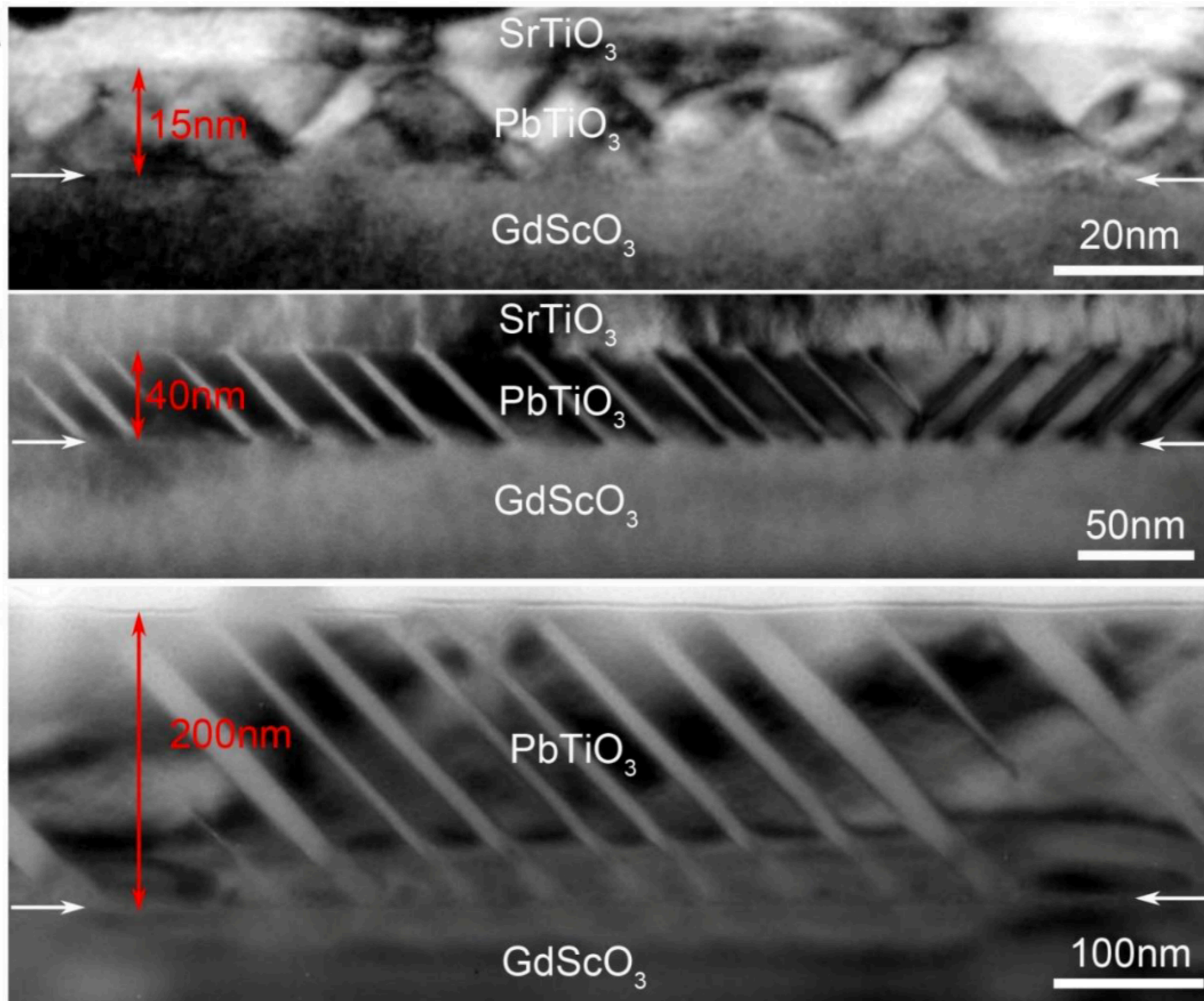
## Mechanical boundary conditions

Ferroelastic 90° domain walls

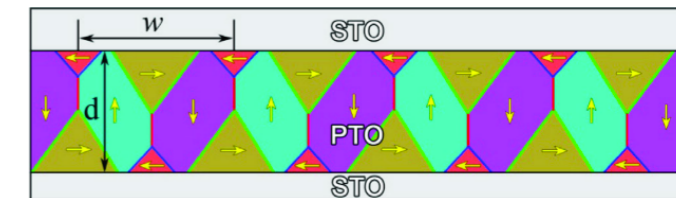


Koukhar, Pertsev and Waser, Phys. Rev. B 64 214103 (2001)

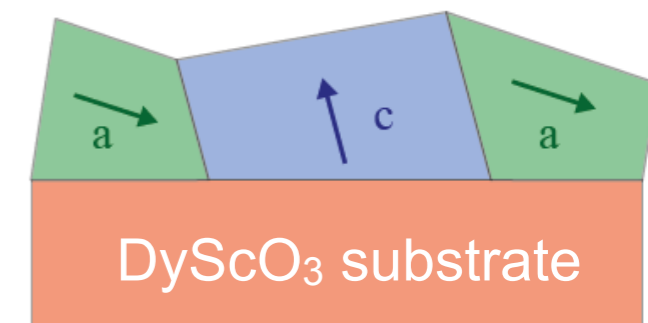
# Domain walls in $\text{PbTiO}_3$ thin films



Flux-closure domain pattern

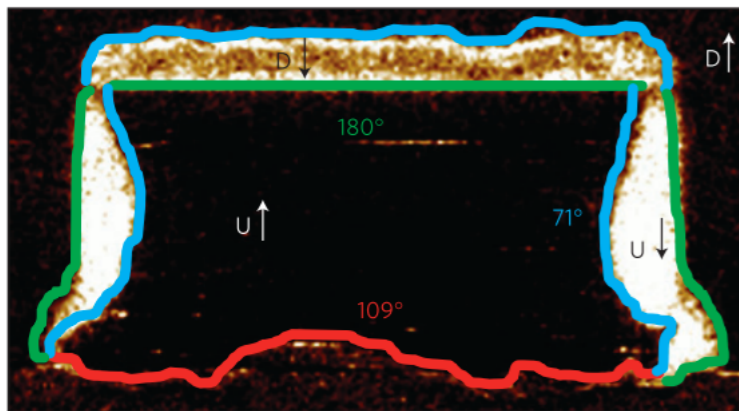
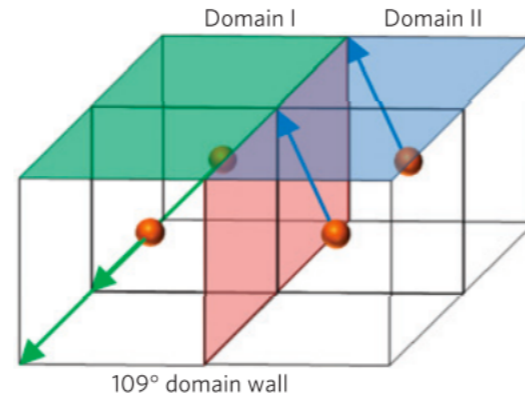
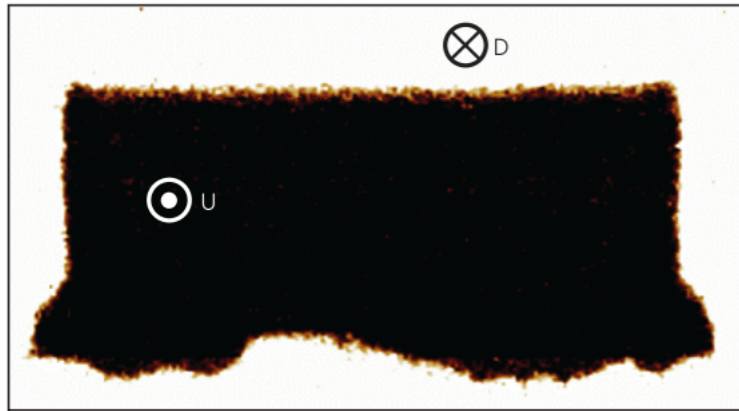


a/c - Ferroelastic  $90^\circ$  domain walls

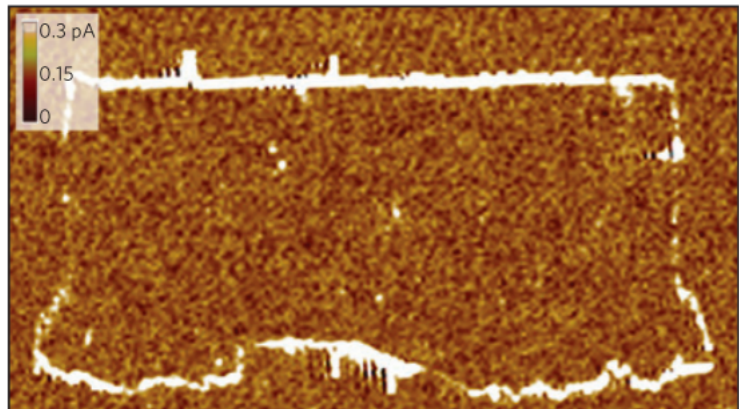


Tang et al, Science 348, 547 (2015)

# Conduction at domain walls



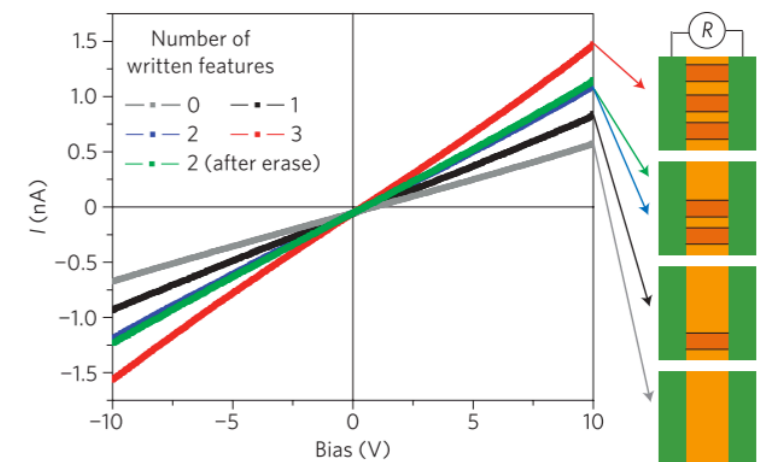
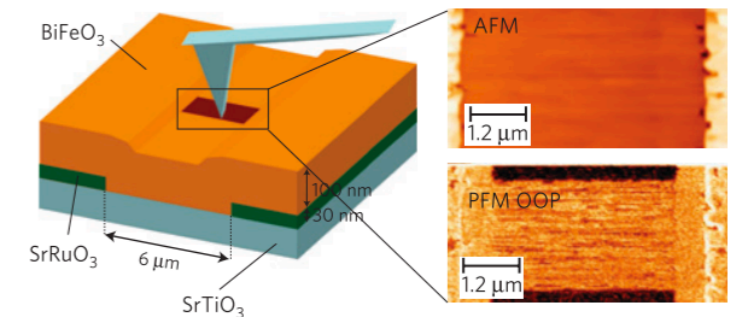
Conduction at 109° and 180° domain walls  
No conduction at 71° domain walls



**Table 1 | Electronic structure at ferroelectric domain walls.**

Domain wall type (°)	Electrostatic potential step (eV)	Change in bandgap (eV)
71	0.02	0.05
109	0.15	0.10
180	0.18	0.20

Calculated values of the potential step and reduction in bandgap at all three domain-wall types.



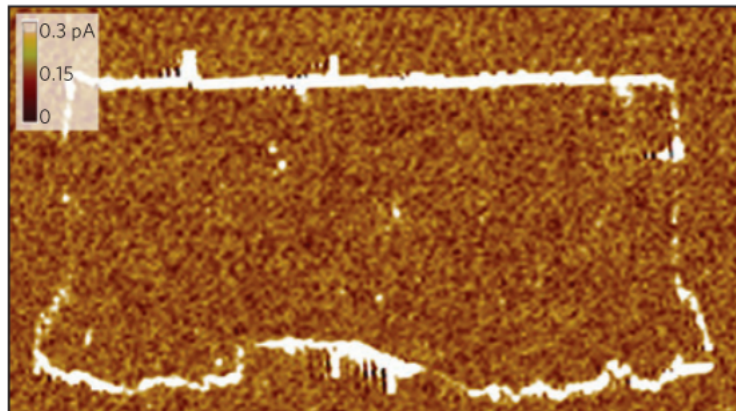
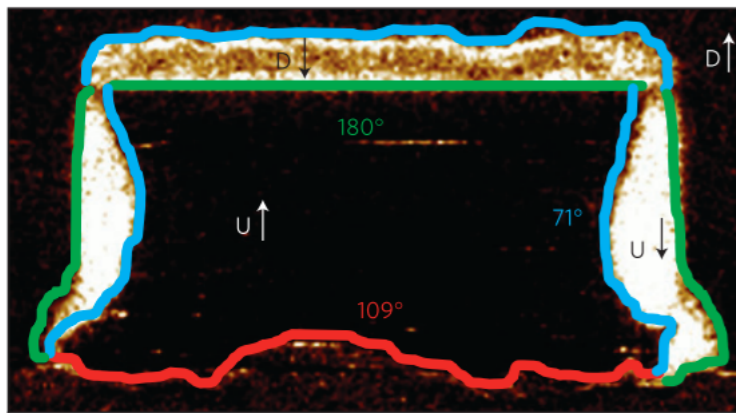
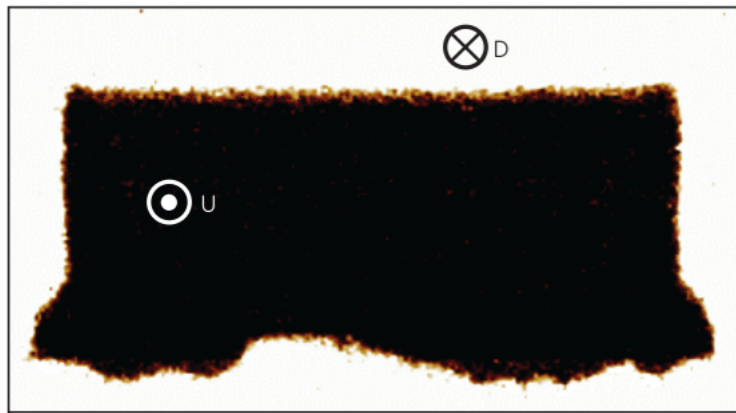
(110) BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

Conduction at domain walls in oxide multiferroics

Seidel et al, Nature Materials 8:229(2009)

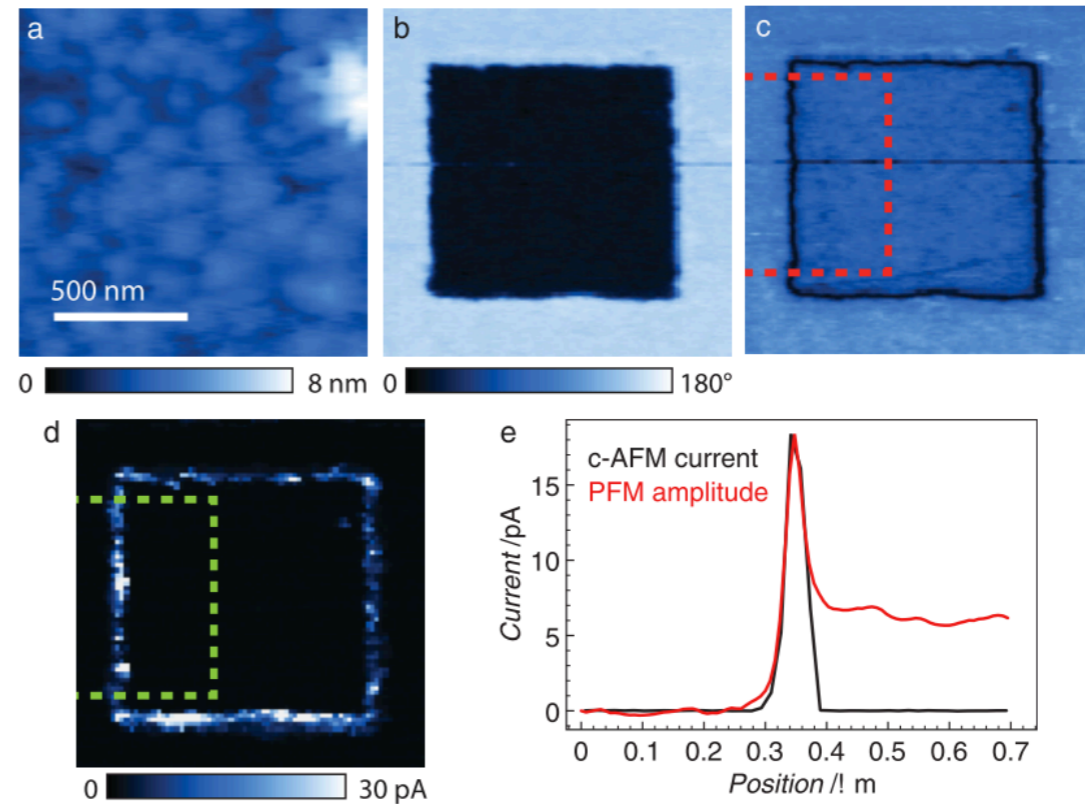
Proof of concept for device application

# Conduction at domain walls



(110) BiFeO<sub>3</sub>

*Conduction at domain walls in oxide multiferroics*  
Seidel et al, Nature Materials 8:229(2009)

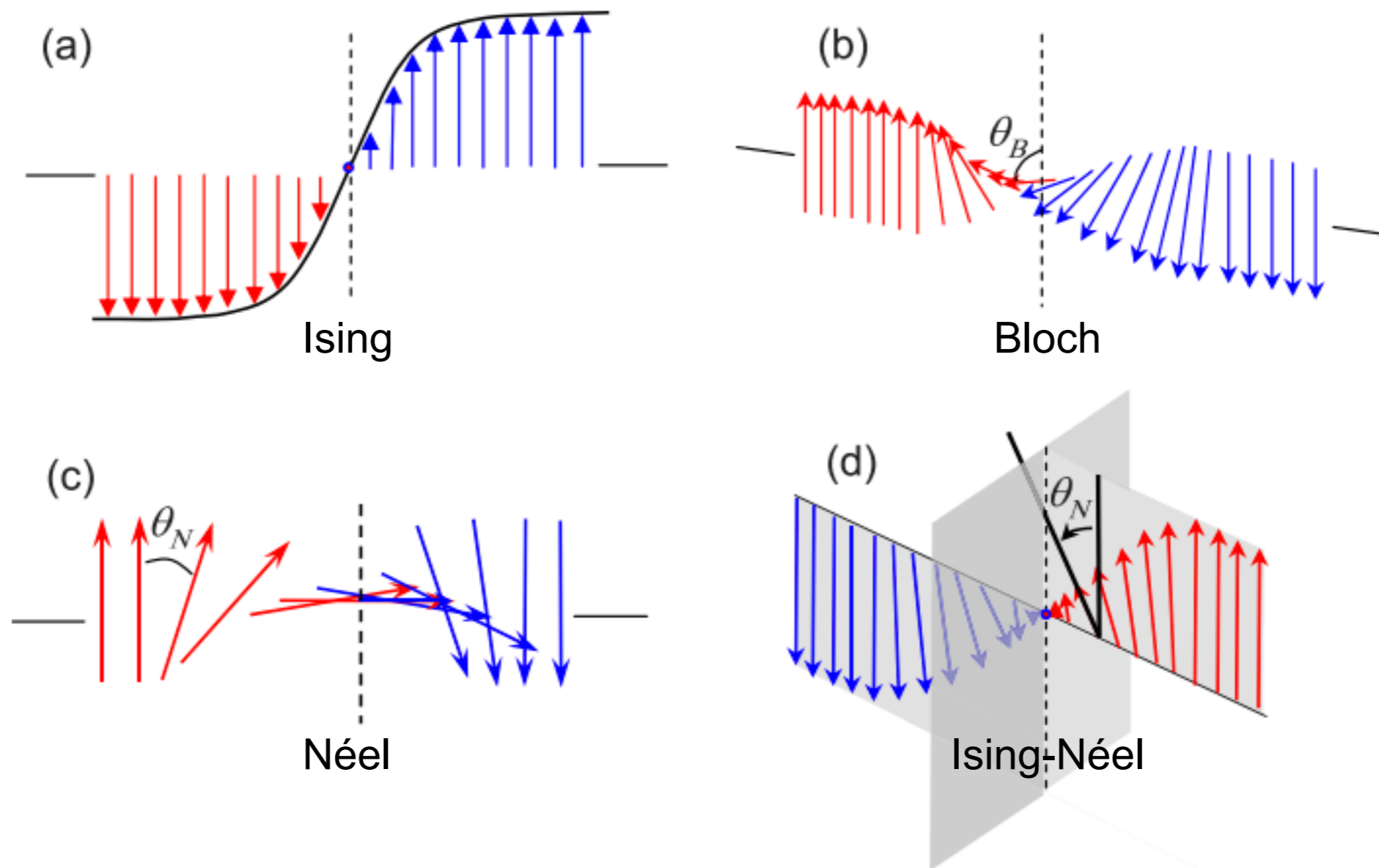


Conduction at 180° domain walls

PbZr<sub>0.2</sub>Ti<sub>0.8</sub>O<sub>3</sub>

*Conduction at domain walls in insulating Pb(Zr<sub>0.2</sub>Ti<sub>0.8</sub>)O<sub>3</sub> thin films*  
Guyonnet, Gaponenko, Gariglio, Paruch, Advanced Materials 23:5377(2011)

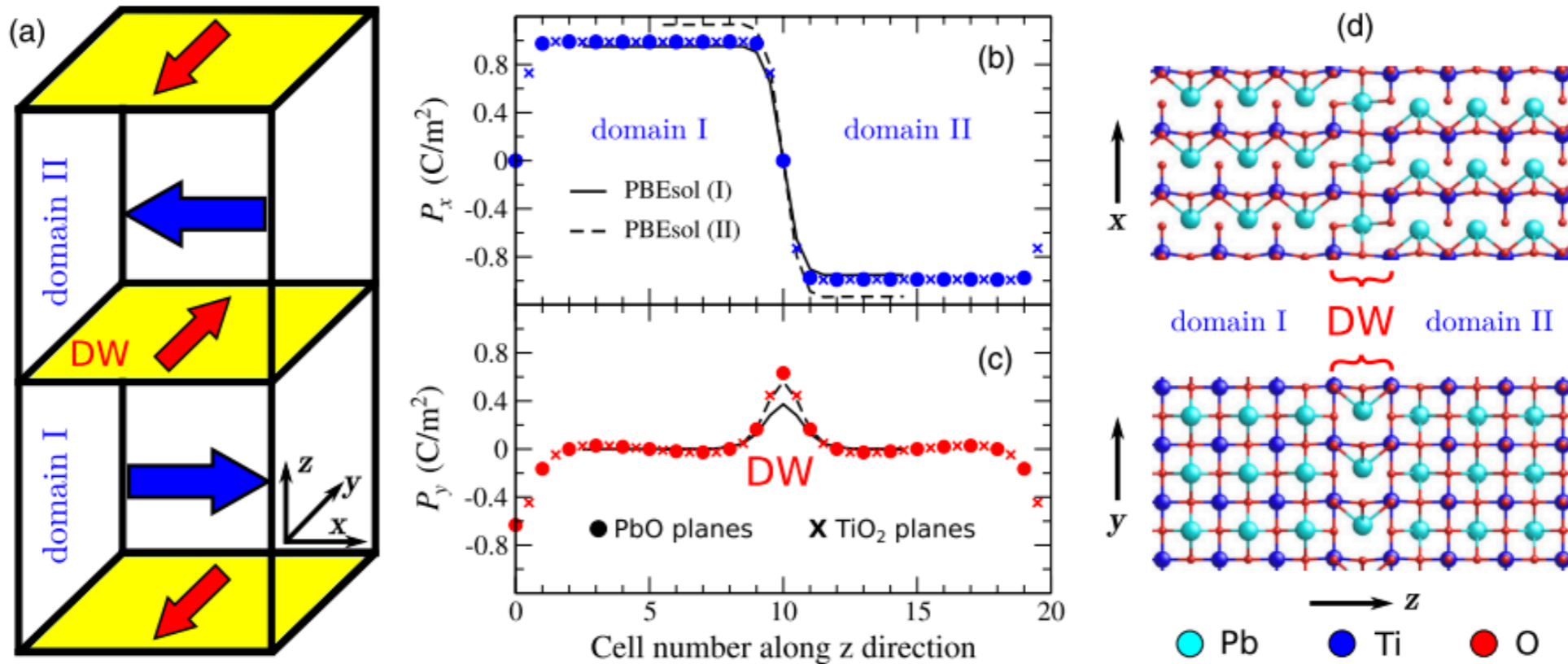
# Nature of 180° ferroelectric domain walls



*Mixed Bloch-Néel-Ising character of 180° ferroelectric domain walls*

Lee, Behera, Wu, Xu, Li, Sinnott, Phillpot, Chen, Gopalan,  
*Phys. Rev. B* 80, 060102 (2009)

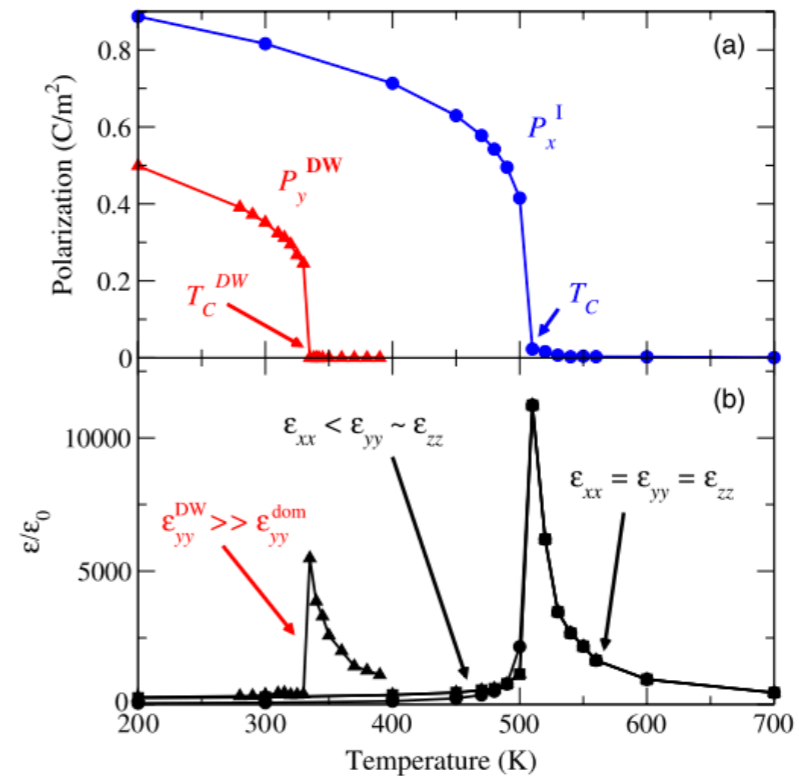
# Nature of 180° ferroelectric domain walls



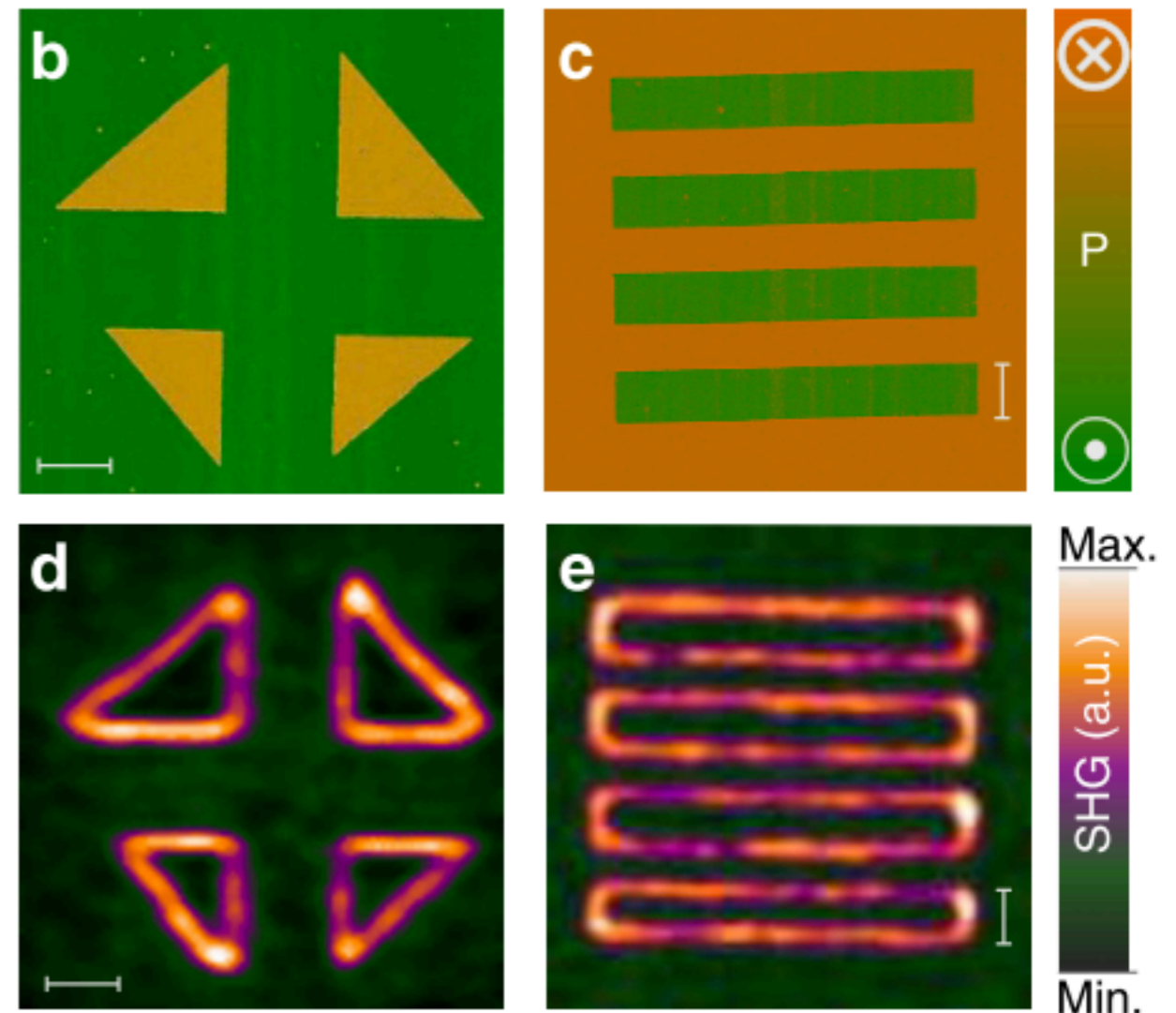
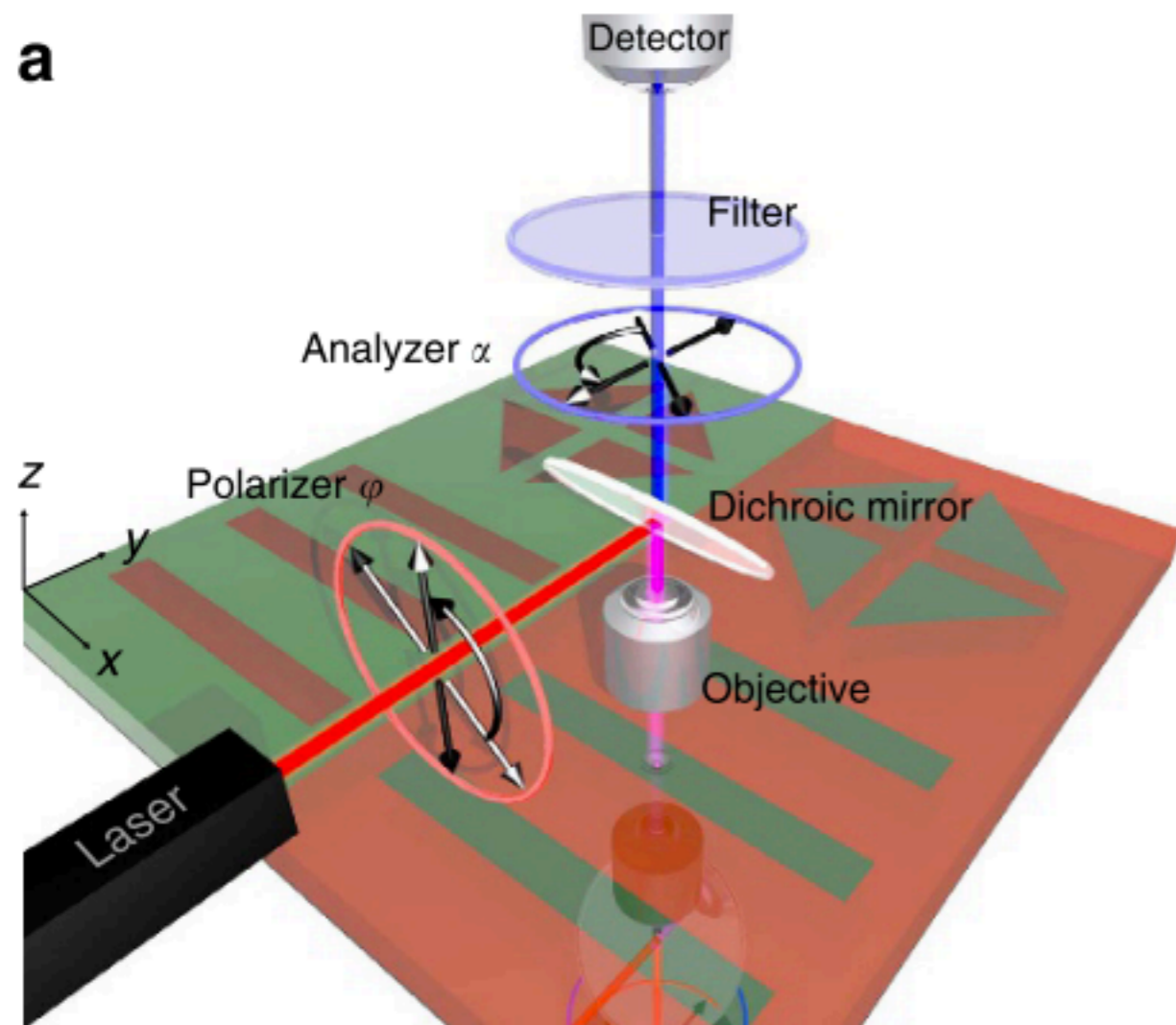
*Ferroelectric Transitions at Ferroelectric Domain Walls Found from First Principles*

Wojdet and Íñiguez, PRL 112, 247603 (2014)

From Ising ( $P=0$ ) to Bloch ( $P \neq 0$ , switchable) at low T.



# Nature of 180° ferroelectric domain walls



50 nm-thick  $\text{PbZr}_{0.2}\text{Ti}_{0.8}\text{O}_3$

*Non-Ising and chiral ferroelectric domain walls revealed by nonlinear optical microscopy*

*Cherifi-Hertel, Bulou, Hertel, Taupier, Dorkenoo, Adreas, Guyonnet, Gaponenko, Gallo, Paruch, Nature Comm. 8:15768 (2017)*



# Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

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Letter

## Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

Zijian Hong,<sup>\*,¶</sup> Sujit Das,<sup>¶</sup> Christopher Nelson,<sup>¶</sup> Ajay Yadav, Yongjun Wu,<sup>\*</sup> Javier Junquera, Long-Qing Chen, Lane W. Martin, and Ramamoorthy Ramesh<sup>\*</sup>

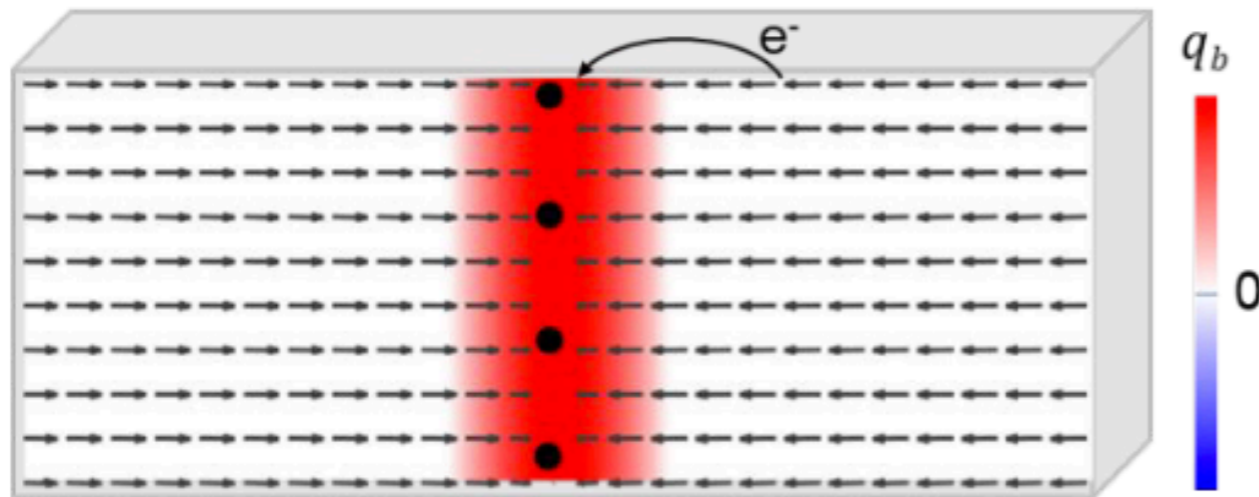


Cite This: *Nano Lett.* 2021, 21, 3533–3539

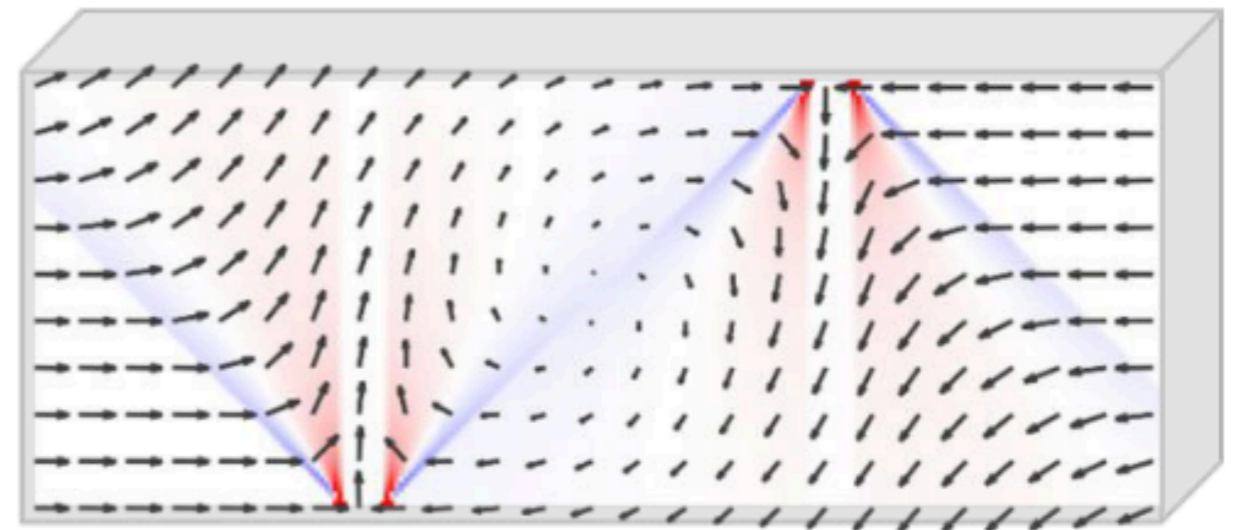


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Charged Domain Wall  $|\nabla \cdot P| > 0$



Vortex Domain Wall



*Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics*

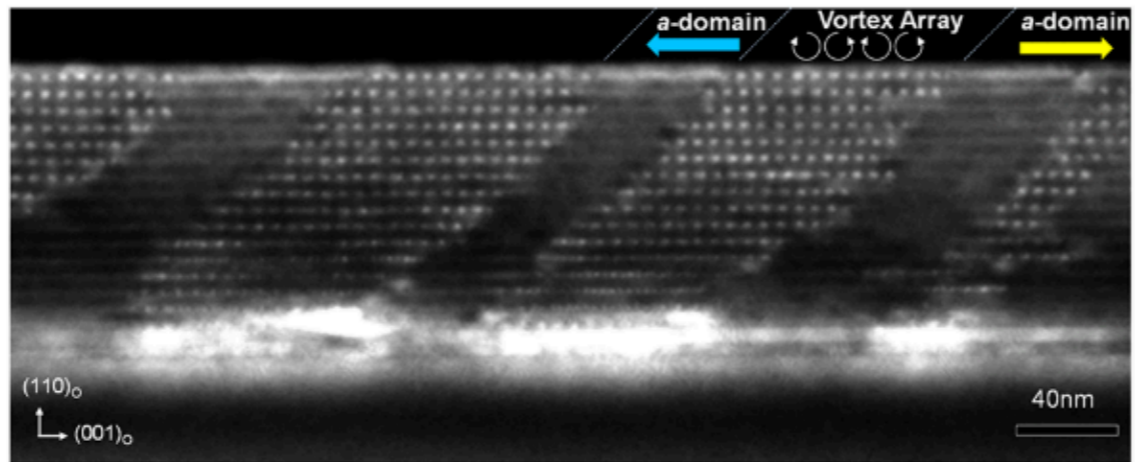
Hong, Das, Nelson, Yadav, Wu, Junquera, Chen, Martin, Ramesh,  
*Nano Letters* 21 3533 (2021)

Faculty of Science  
Department of Quantum Matter Physics  
Celine.Lichtensteiger@unige.ch



UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE

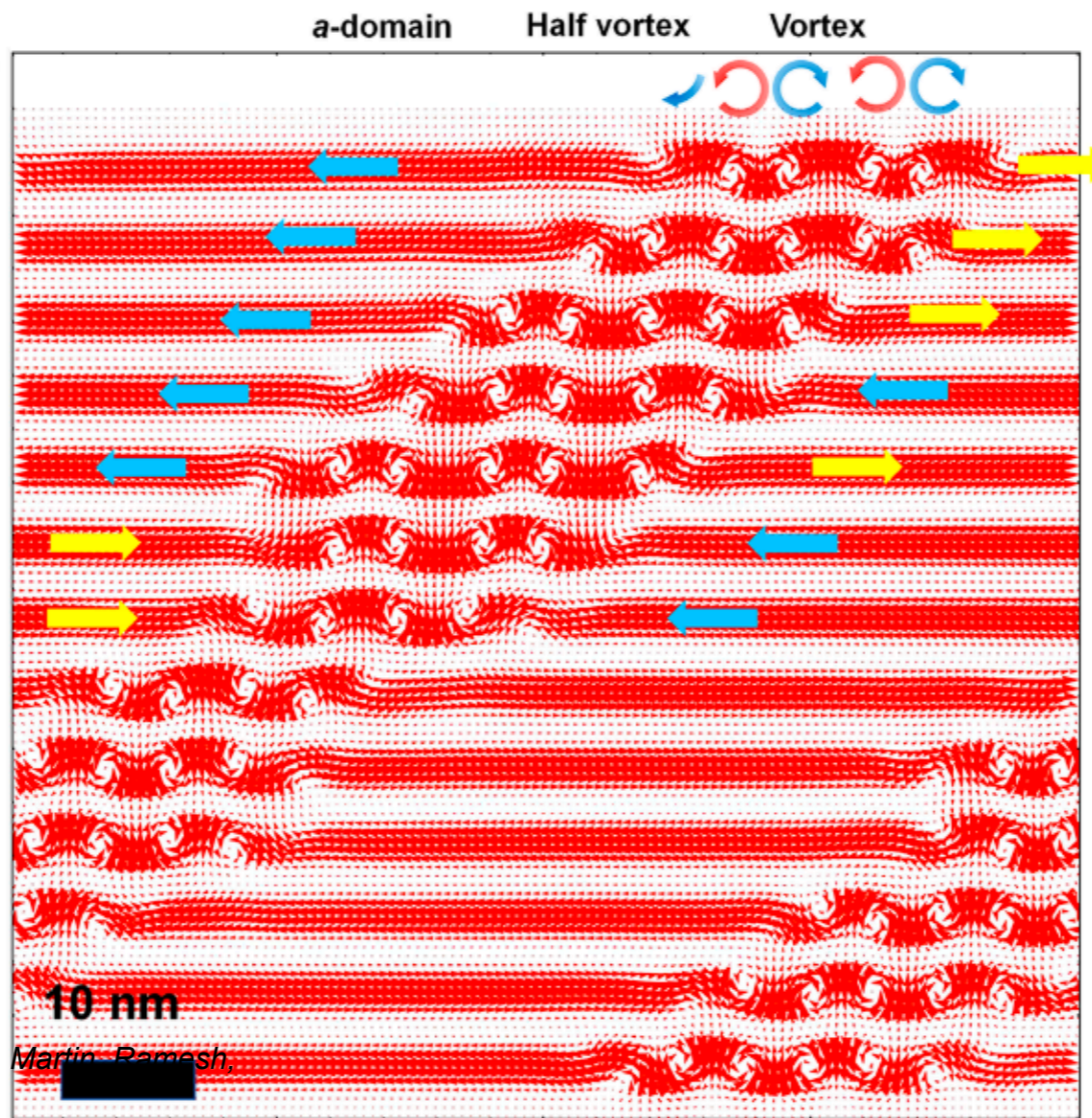
# Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics



(PbTiO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub>/(SrTiO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>6</sub> superlattice

SrRuO<sub>3</sub> electrode

DyScO<sub>3</sub> substrate



"head-to-tail" (neutral)

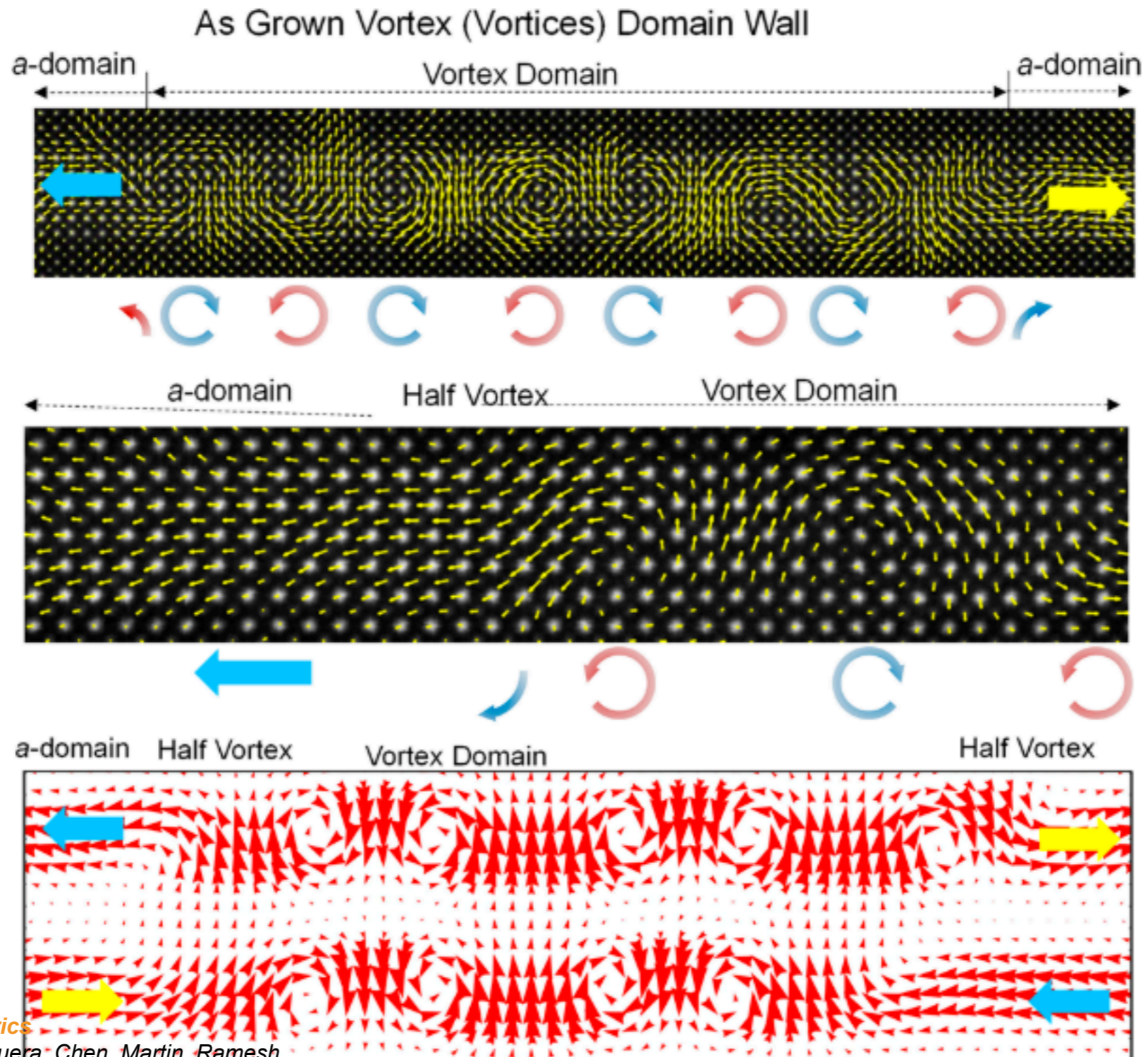
"tail-to-tail" (charged)

"head-to-head" (charged)

*Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics*

Hong, Das, Nelson, Yadav, Wu, Junquera, Chen, Martin, Ramesh,  
Nano Letters 21 3533 (2021)

# Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics



*Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics*

Hong, Das, Nelson, Yadav, Wu, Junquera, Chen, Martin, Ramesh,  
*Nano Letters* 21 3533 (2021)

# Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

## a Vortex Erasure Under Bias

mixed phase (as grown)

Surface Probe (0V)

Bottom Electrode

V

Under Bias (+15 V)

Under Bias (-15 V)

Surface Probe

15V

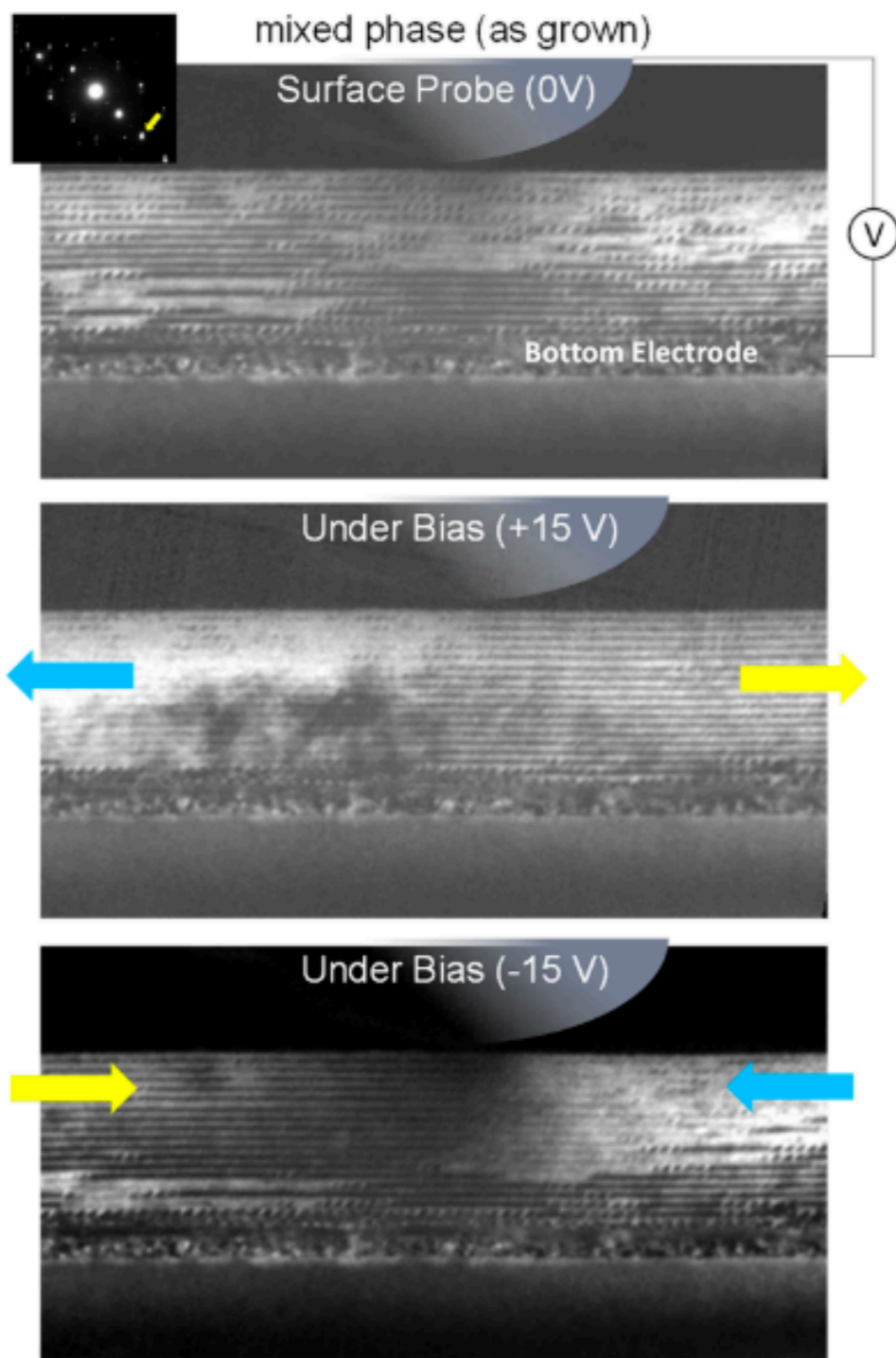
-15V

### Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

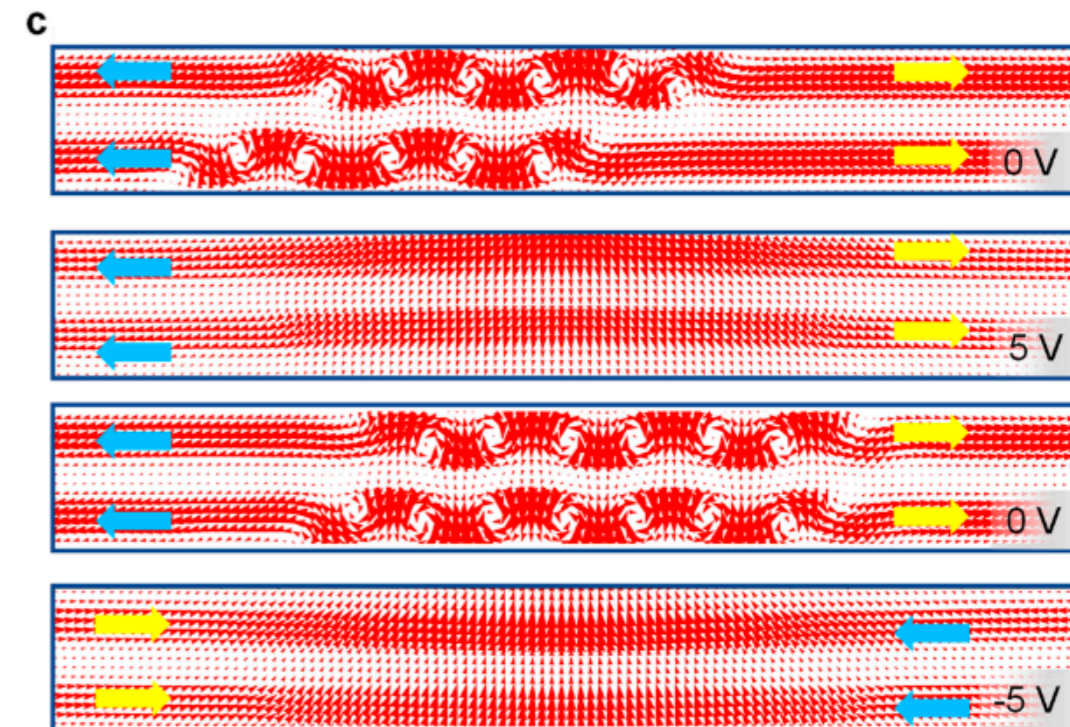
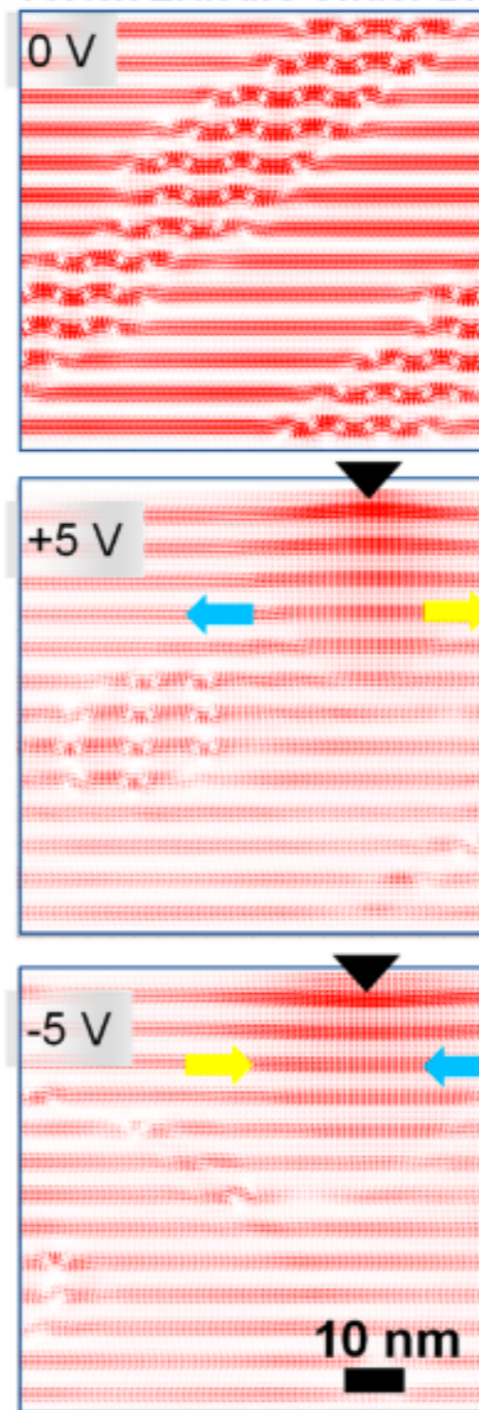
Hong, Das, Nelson, Yadav, Wu, Junquera, Chen, Martin, Ramesh,  
Nano Letters 21 3533 (2021)

# Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics

**a** Vortex Erasure Under Bias



**b** Phase field  
Vortex Erasure Under Bias



⇒ reversible switching between the in-plane polarised charged domain wall and the vortex domain wall

*Vortex Domain Walls in Ferroelectrics*

Hong, Das, Nelson, Yadav, Wu, Junquera, Chen, Martin, Ramesh,  
*Nano Letters* 21 3533 (2021)

# Thank you!